

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 3/3 helps secure clinic



Capt. Juanita Chang

Cpl. Ramirez Ricardo, from Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, pulls guard duty around a clinic in Khost Province, Afghanistan during a medical assistance an assessment visit to the village, Feb. 21. Ricardo is assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, “America’s Battalion,” from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. During the medical visit, coalition forces provided critical medical assistance to more than 660 Afghans.

Marines maintain security, enable Afghan citizens to receive medical treatment

### Capt. Juanita Chang

Combined Joint Task Force 76

**KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Nearly 1,000 people came to Khilbasat village to see if the announcements they heard over a loud speaker were true. They heard broadcasts that coalition forces would be providing free medical care for local residents. Neither they, nor some of the coalition soldiers, could believe what they saw.

“The people are really happy that Americans are here today,” said a local boy in broken English, talking from over a stone wall to a Marine who was pulling guard duty.

“I am from a third-world country, but this was very shocking for me to see,” said Spc. Thia T. Valenzuela, who moved to the United States from Guyana in 2001, joined the United States Army the same year, and now calls Decatur, Ga., home.

“While I was de-worming them I was looking at their teeth. They were all rotten and so unhealthy,” said Valenzuela, a dental assistant from Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion stationed out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

“It was so shocking to see all the children not wearing shoes,” Valenzuela said, this being her first time out of the secure military facility, or “outside the wire” as service members in Afghanistan refer to it. “It was freezing cold, and there were so many who were barefooted.”

“It was a culture shock,” admitted Sgt. Teresa A. Trevino, of Corpus Christi, Texas. “The

See **MEDICAL**, A-7

## PSYOP teams give Marines a voice

### Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Combat Correspondent

**JALALABAD, Afghanistan** — The crowd grew in the afternoon fog, eager eyes waiting to see what the soldiers, Marines and Afghan Police were posting on the sign-board they had just set up in front of the most popular radio station in town.

“Whenever they see the ‘speaker truck,’ people know we have information to disseminate, and we’ll attract a large crowd very quickly,” observed Army Sgt. Joshua Hale, psychological operations specialist with the 13th PSYOP Battalion, referring to his unit’s popularity among the Afghan people and the recognition the speakers mounted to his humvee brings. “Everyone wants our pamphlets and papers,” he said. “Every Afghan I’ve met wants to know what’s going on in the country. We give them

information that they might not get any other way — about what’s going on.” Within minutes of their arrival, several hundred newspapers and leaflets are gone, carried off in eager arms.

A recent media survey performed by an independent research group found that 80

See **PSYOPS**, A-7



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. Josh Wartchow, Lima Company rifleman, watches as a crowd pushes around an Afghan National Police Officer who is handing out PSYOP newspapers in Jalalabad. The papers are eagerly received whenever ANP or ANA passes them out.

## Compliments to the chef



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Lt. Col. James S. Connelly (left), commander of Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters Battalion, shakes the hand of Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Geib, who was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at a flagpole ceremony, Friday. Geib received the award for outstanding achievement as a food service specialist with Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters Battalion after winning the Chef of the Year competition and earning the honor of premier cook at Anderson Hall.

## Corps tightens tattoo policy

### Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Press Chief

Most Marines came in the Corps understanding that they were making a change to their lifestyle in a more conservative way, but when some joined the ranks, they found it to be popular to get tattoos. This is now seen as a step in a non-conservative direction.

Unfortunately, for the Marines who decided to get tattooed, their choice of tattoos and where they appear on their body may hinder their career path, according to 1st Sgt. Gustavo Cagigas, Military Police Company first sergeant.

“In an effort to move the Marine Corps in a more conservative direction, changes are being made to the recruiting manual to restrict the amount and location of tattoos, before entry.”

Cagigas spoke to the non-commissioned officers of Headquarters and Service Battalion Feb. 15 about

See **TATTOO**, A-2

## Iwo Jima revisited 60 years later

### Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Redding

MCB Camp Pendleton

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — No more than 8 square miles ... a third of the size of Manhattan Island ... nothing beyond a pinprick on the map of the world. Yet for 36 days in 1945, Iwo Jima was the focus of global attention during World War II — and a killing field for nearly 6,000 Marines in an epic battle that still defines the Corps 60 years later.

More than 71,000 Marines went ashore in the shadows of Mount Suribachi on Feb. 19 at 8:59 a.m. — none of them knowing that when the battle was over and the island was taken, 22 Marines would receive the Medal of Honor.

“We were the ‘walking wounded,’” said retired Sgt. Maj. ‘Iron Mike’ Mervosh, who was with Company C, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

Mervosh, who is now 81, added, “We weren’t afraid to die, but we all wanted to

live.”

Most of them didn’t. Company C began the battle with 240 Marines. Thirty-six days later, after the island was conquered, only 31 were alive to tell about it — and half of those were “walking wounded,” Mervosh said.

On that two-mile strip island, Marines had no place to hide as they fought their way up the mountain toward entrenched Japanese fighters. In the only battle of the war where the Marine Corps lost more fighters than the enemy, 17,372 Marines were wounded.

Air and naval gunfire proved nearly useless against the Japanese — who had spent years building tunnels and deep trenches in preparation to defend the island.

“It was the battle of battles,” said Mervosh, part of the initial invasion wave. “From the day we landed to the day we left, it never let up. There will never be another battle like it.”

When the dust had settled from the first day of engagement, the Marine Corps had suffered 500 casualties — a sign of things to come. Ultimately, one-third of American forces that landed on the island were injured.

The Marines bore the brunt of the carnage in the early days. But there was no turning back.

“By dammit, we were Marines. That’s what we are here for,” Mervosh emphasized.

For 19-year-old Pvt. Jim Weiry, it was a bittersweet birthday in 1945, occurring in the midst of what was referred to as “hell on earth.”

What mattered in the end, said Weiry, 78, was conquering the island.

“We landed there to take the island, and that was what we were going to do,” said Weiry, who later became a first lieutenant with the 3rd Marine Division.

The battle continued the Marine Corps’ drive across the Pacific Ocean, with the ultimate aim of reaching the Japanese mainland, explained Bob V. Akiulina, a historian with the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C.

“Iwo Jima simply could not be bypassed,” Akiulina explained.

See **IWO JIMA**, A-4



NEWS BRIEFS

MCB Hawaii to Host Close of Makahiki Season

The closing ceremonies of the 2004-2005 Makahiki Season will be held on MCB Hawaii, Saturday and Sunday, as local families gather to pay tribute in traditional fashion on Mokapu Peninsula. Saturday morning, Keahiakahoe Canoe Club canoes will cross Kaneohe Bay, bearing the “akua loa” (symbol of Makahiki) from Kuoloa Beach Park to Hale Koa Beach area. Mokapu Elementary students will join the Makahiki celebrants in a canoe-welcoming ceremony at the landing site. There will be ancient Hawaiian chants, a talk story and hula performances. Before dawn on Sunday, the “akua loa” will be moved by procession from Hale Koa Beach to Pyramid Rock where traditional sunrise ceremonies will mark the end of the Makahiki season. The beginning of the season was celebrated here with a traditional ceremony at Pyramid Rock Beach during late October 2003.

New Nimitz Road/Detour Plan

Nimitz Road will be closed Monday through Friday, for 24 hours, and will re-open Friday afternoon, after construction at 3:30 p.m. There will be “road closed” signs at the following streets.

- Nimitz Road entrance (intersection of Nimitz Road and Reeves Road)
- Other end of Nimitz Road (Corner of Halligan Road and Nimitz Road)
- Halligan Road (intersection of Halligan Road and Nimitz Road)

The detour route leads to Reeves Road, exiting from Halligan Road and at the other end of Nimitz Road. No pedestrians will be allowed to cross while construction crews are at work. A pedestrian crosswalk will be located toward the beginning of construction site.

The projected end date is March 24, however, that is is subject to change. There will be a partial lane closure which will still allow two-way vehicular access from March 7 through March 16 to facilitate curb/gutter removal and replacement.

The actual Nimitz Road closure project is scheduled for March 21 to March 25. The point of contact for this project is Marc Wong, Construction Management Engineer, 257-1116.

Red Cross to Recognize Volunteers

The American Red Cross will be honoring their volunteers for their services in 2004 and will be having a luncheon on March 14 at the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Club, Building 3088, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Triathlon may Cause Delays at Mokapu Gate

The 4th Annual Lanikai Triathlon will be held, March 20, in Kailua and aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. MCB Hawaii support for the event will include the closing of Mokapu Road to through traffic from 5 to 9 a.m. on race day, Sunday, from the back gate to the intersection of Mokapu Road and Harris Street. Traffic will be routed to minimize impact on residents. Appropriate event signs and traffic control points will be posted.

EOD Looks to fill School Seats

Explosive Ordnance Disposal is an MOS that is normally only available to sergeants and re-enlisting corporals. However, HQMC has recently authorized lance corporals and corporals to join the ranks — but only until Sept. 30, and only if the following criteria are met: GT score of 110 or higher; minimum of 21 years of age; normal color vision; no claustrophobia; minimum two years in service; First class PFT; eligible for secret security clearance based on Single Scope Background Investigation; and are eligible for Personnel Reliability Program. Remember, this is only until Sept. 30. After that, the offer is only available to sergeants and above.

For additional information, call 257-7112 and ask to speak with any EOD Tech that is available.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies 257-9111  
Military Police 257-7114

Marines place hand over heart for anthem

Cpl. Trevor M. Carlee  
Combat Correspondent

**CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan** — All service members are required to place their right hand over their heart when in civilian attire during the playing of the United States’ national anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

This is not a new order and has been the standard since the implementation of Marine Corps Order P10520.3b dated Sept. 15, 1989, according to Gunnery Sgt. Vincent B. White, administrative chief, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

“Everybody has been trained to stand at the position of attention if they are in civilian attire while the national anthem plays,” White said. “That’s what was taught when I went through [basic training], and my junior Marines said they were taught the same thing. This is something that every unit is going to have to inform their Marines about.”

Annex A, title 36, of Marine Corps Order P10520.3b, the Marine Corps Flag Manual, says that during rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present, except those in uniform, should stand at attention facing the flag with their right hand over their heart. Men not in uniform should

remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over their heart.

Paragraph 7003.2 of Marine Corps Order P5060.2, the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual, states in reference to rendering a salute to colors, “Persons not in uniform will stand at attention, face the flag and place the right hand over the heart. Gentlemen, if covered, remove their headdress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder so that the right hand is over the heart.”

There are also three paragraphs in U.S. Navy Regulation 1990 that address rendering appropriate honors while in civilian attire.

Paragraph 1205.1 — discussing saluting the national ensign, “Persons in civilian clothes shall comply with the roles and customs established for civilians.”

Paragraph 1207.2 — discussing boarding a naval vessel, “A member not in uniform shall render appropriate honors to the national ensign by facing the flag and standing at attention with the right hand over the heart. If covered, men shall remove their headdress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.”

Paragraph 1207.3 — dis-

cussing being passed or passing colors, “Each person in the naval service in uniform, upon being passed by or passing a military formation carrying the national ensign uncased shall render the hand salute. A member not in uniform being passed by or passing such a formation shall face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. If covered, men shall remove the headdress and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.”

“This should have been caught a long time ago,” White said. “They should hold battalion formations to make sure everyone knows about this.”

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., has already modified its lesson plan to address this situation and the depot in San Diego is following suit, according to Sgt. Maj. Ralph H. Drake, Training and Education Command sergeant major, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Drill instructor schools will also make the appropriate change.



Cpl. Trevor M. Carlee

Members of the naval service are required to place their right hand over their heart when in civilian attire during the playing of the United States’ national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

In accordance with U.S. Navy Regulation 1990, Chapter 12, Paragraph 1205.2, the same marks of respect prescribed during the playing of the national anthem shall be shown during the playing of a foreign national anthem.

TATTOO, From A-1

some of the changes the Marine Corps Recruiting Command has made regarding tattoos. He also discussed how the changes could affect the advancement of Marines who may want to apply for career-boosting programs.

According to All Marine Message 194/96, tattoos or brands on the neck and head are prohibited and have been so since 1996. In other areas of the body, tattoos or brands that are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Marine Corps are also prohibited.

Changes in Marine Corps Order P1100.72, or the Military Personnel Procurement Manual, Volume 2, specify certain criteria for acceptable tattoos. The criteria includes limiting the number of tattoos, visible while wearing physical training gear, to four and limiting the size of a single tattoo to less than one quarter of the particular body part that it appears on — or smaller than the size of the individual’s palm, if the tattoo is exposed while wearing the Service Charlie uniform.

Some Marines are concerned about how the tattoo policy will affect their opportunities for advancement and special duties or commissioning programs.

“We’re in the most conservative of all the services,” claims Cagigas. “It’s not just a job, it’s a way of life, and Marines have to accept that. The Marine Corps is not going to



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

As stated in the Marine Corps Order, tattoos visible in the Service Charlie uniform must be small enough to cover with one palm.

lower its standards to accept people, no matter what the current troubles are with recruiting. Marines, already enlisted, need to be aware that the tattoos they get can have long-term effects on future opportunities for advancement.”

According to MCO 1100.72C, Marines assigned to high profile assignments, such as duty with Marine Barracks 8th & 1, Washington, D.C.; Marine Corps Security Forces; or Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps are prohibited from having any tattoos, branding or ornamentation below the biceps or anything that shows when wearing the Summer Service uniforms.”

Even re-enlistment, according to Cagigas, can become difficult if a Marine accrues too many, or over-sized tattoos.

“When going up for re-enlistment, Marines can be held to the same standards as a potential recruit. Their tattoos can be scrutinized to determine whether or not a Marine is accepted,” said Cagigas. “There have been several cases, lately, where Marines have been denied the ability to re-enlist or re-enter the Marine Corps based solely on the tattoos they have acquired.”

Some Marines are well aware that their tattoos should not be seen while in uniform. They think that Marine recruits should not necessarily be denied the opportunity to be a Marine, because they have chosen to be tattooed.

Owens, an Adel, Ga. native who also has seven tattoos, none of which are visible in either his PT gear or Service Charlie uniform, agrees that a professional appearance is very important for Marines.

“Tattoos are looked at by content, size, number and



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Lance Cpl. Chris E. Sullivan, an admin clerk with the Installation Personnel Administration Center, shows his “sleeves,” that, according to Marine Corps Order, would disqualify him as a Marine recruit.

Power outage to affect housing areas

Due to the construction of the 212 unit family housing project, there will be an electrical outage on March 2 and 3. Below is a list of the affected buildings and their respective tenants. The outage is required to install new electrical lines for the new housing project. It is estimated that the outage will last for eight hours, beginning at 8 a.m. All efforts will be made to reduce the length of the outage as much as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience.

Buildings affected by electrical outage on March 2:

- DPRGP: Buildings 7021 to 7025 and 7027
- 3rd Radio Bn.: Building 4052
- 3rd Marine Reg.: Buildings 1033, 1034, 1069, 1092, 1551, 1655, 1656, 3090,

- 3091, 4014, 4015, 4028, 5099, and 7000 to 7006
- CSSG-3: Buildings 1043, 1044, 1074, 1086, and 1097 to 1099, 1634, 1635, 4030 and 4052
- MCCS: Buildings 1033 and 1262
- LFB: Building 1034
- Supply Department: Building 1089
- Facilities Department: Buildings 1091, 1675, 1696, 4071 and 7026
- Base Housing: Affected residents have been notified via the Housing Department.

Buildings affected by electrical outage on March 3:

- CSSG-3: Building 4088
- HQBN: Buildings 1294, 1303, 1520, 1577, 1578, 1584, 1592, 1600, 4056, 4057 and 6507

- MCCS: Buildings 1667 and 5082
- Supply Department: Buildings 1383, 1384, and 1509 to 1518, 1538, 1544, and 1586 to 1589
- Facilities Department: Buildings 1566 and 1597
- Base Housing: Affected residents have been notified via the Housing Department.

Getting it Straight

In the Feb. 18 edition of the *Hawaii Marine*, Yibeli Galindo-Baird was incorrectly labeled as the photographer for the photograph of the Self Storage Facility on B-2. Mark Wittig, also from MCCS Marketing, took the photo.

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Pfc. Anthony Adams, saw gunner, 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sets up to provide cover at the edge of a tree line where his fellow Marines are emerging from a wooded area to get to their rendezvous point during a training exercise with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 463 and 362, Friday, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

## 2/3 teams up with Navy at Bellows

**Story and Photos By**  
**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**

*Combat Correspondent*

Helicopters are heard in the distance, but through the heavily wooded area, their location is unknown. As they approach the landing zone, the sound of their blades cutting through the air grows louder and just as quickly as they arrived, the noise of the rotors subsides. Then, all there is to do is to wait.

Soon, signs of life appear as camouflaged figures can be seen emerging from the tree line. As soon as contact is made with other Marines, waiting in the woods, Marines from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment make a mad dash to their rendezvous point, providing cover and carrying the wounded as they go.

This was the scene as Marines from Fox Co. teamed up with Navy personnel from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons 463 and 362 during a training raid at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows Friday. The exercise was conducted to prepare for 2/3's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Throughout the training raid, Marines from Special Operations Training Group, Okinawa, Japan, were giving directions to Fox Co. and overseeing the exercise.

This was the first time many of these Marines had performed this type of training. Some of the situations they were put in were very unexpected, according to some of the trainees.

"During the raids, only myself and one other Marine from our squad made it to the end," said Pfc. Rudolfo D. Booth, assistant gunner, 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "The rest were designated as killed, so we had to try to get through the rest of the raid without them. It put us in a difficult position



Pfc. Rudolfo Booth, assistant gunner, 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sets up to provide cover for fellow Marines, Friday.

and made us have to figure out a way to make it all work."

The Moreano Valley, Calif. native explained, although the training was complicated, the one thing he really learned from it was how to stay calm and composed in an intense environment.

Not only were there Marines who were designated as killed or wounded during the training, the instructors made sure the

scenario was as real as possible by having the other Marines carry their dead and wounded to the helicopter rendezvous point. For some, that was more than 400 meters away.

"The helicopters support was really good," said Booth who earned the title of Marine five months ago. "They were right where we needed them; right when we needed them."



Marines from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carry Marines, designated as casualties, out of harms way during training.



Lance Cpl. Paul Greenfield, 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carries a designated casualty during training for helicopter raids at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Friday.



# 21st Dental hikes up Kansas Tower

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Combat Correspondent*

With the afternoon sun still blazing, 26 Sailors from 21st Dental Company, equipped with full gear, stepped off on a hike that eventually lead to the top of Kansas Tower.

“We don’t really ever get a chance to conduct this type of field training, and we want everyone to be prepared for anything that they may face in the future of their military careers,” said Senior Chief Roland Manahan, dental technician, 21st Dental Company. “We do what we need to, to stay prepared, and this was part of our ongoing training.”

Decked out in digital camouflage utilities, packs, Kevlar’s and flack jackets, the Sailors began their excursion from 21st Dental Company building and took a route past the Band Hall and The Officers’ Club to the top of

KT. Once they arrived at their destination and they dropped their gear, they were presented with submarine sandwiches, fruit and drinks before listening to a discussion by their company commander.

Navy Capt. Greg J. Kvaska, company commander, 21st Dental Company, began with an enthusiastic speech about the history of the Marine Corps and the involvement of dental personnel over the years, ending his speech with a loud Marine Corps. “Grunt.” The rest of the room responded with their respectively animated versions of the “Jarhead” lingo before settling into their seats for a slide show presentation.

“The slides showed the Sailors examples of what dental personnel do in combat arenas,” said the Cleveland, Ohio native. “When bullets fly, we drop our dental roles and assume our

secondary mission – assisting medical with combat casualty care. “

The show included slides from Operations Desert Shield and Storm. There were images of everything from field surgeries to flooded bunkers. There was even a slide that showed a camel riding in a Toyota that complimented Kvaska’s witty commentary about life, as it really is, in the desert.

Once the presentation concluded, each Sailor was called forward to receive a War on Terrorism Service Medal before gearing up to head down KT and back to Dental.

According to Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon, press chief, Marine Forces Pacific Public Affairs Office, all military personnel qualify for the blue, red, yellow and white striped medal right away. The exception are those in initial acces-

sion training such as recruits, officer candidates, students of the School of Infantry, the Basic School or student naval aviators, or in follow-on military occupation schools.

“It was a good team-building experience,” said Petty Officer First Class Edward Huffman, leading petty officer, 21st Dental Company. “It also was a confidence builder. If we get called out into a combat area, we will feel more confident.”

Ongoing training like the “hump,” explained Manahan, helps to keep the dental technicians prepared so that if they do deploy, they will know their gear and not become a liability.

“I believe we satisfied our objectives,” said Kvaska. “This was only one element of our comprehensive field training to become warfare qualified, and we intend to keep working on our continuing education program as well.”

## IWO JIMA, From A-1

Strategically, the island was important not for its size, but for its placement between mainland Japan and the U.S. Pacific forces.

Taking control of the island’s three airstrips was crucial for American forces. The island proved a valuable launch pad for B-29 bombing raids over mainland Japan.

“By the time of the battle, the U.S. was able to bomb Japanese home islands. On return flights, however, the planes were disabled, were in dire need of fuel or they were hit by Japanese fighters and damaged,” Akuilina explained.

The island provided an emergency landing strip for the B-29s, allowing them to refuel or be repaired.

Moreover, taking Iwo Jima added the element of surprise to U.S. raids. Previously, Japanese forces on the island tipped off the mainland about impending U.S. raids, Akuilina said.

The island, considered home soil by the Japanese, was important to the soldiers protecting it from foreign control.

“The Japanese fought viciously on Iwo Jima, perhaps more so than any of the other islands,” Akuilina said. “As the island belonged to them, the troops fought more personally than ever because it was their own soil.”

“They knew they weren’t getting off the island. Surrender wasn’t an option, Weiry said. “I think they knew they were going to be dead.”

But they weren’t going easily. They even tried to get inside the Americans’ heads.

Weiry remembered back to the cold nights in Iwo Jima foxholes, listening to Japanese soldiers whispering his name, over and over.

“They were tenacious,” he said, recalling a battle that was predicted to last a mere 72 hours.

For many, it lasted a lifetime.

But the battle, though exhausting and costly, was part of Marine Corps destiny — a victorious legacy that cast the Corps in stone as perhaps the world’s most vaunted warfighting organizations.

A Marine Corps victory on Iwo Jima “was just a matter of time,” Weiry said. And lives. Lots of lives.

## Better together



Col. Steve C. Veach (left), chief of staff for MCB Hawaii cut the ribbon, Tuesday, to officially open the doors to the new Installation Personnel Administration Center. It took roughly two weeks to get areas functioning at top level. The new center meshes together Marines from 3rd Marines, CSSG-3 and MAG-24 into one organization.

The Flagraisers	
<b>Mike Strank</b> b. 1919 Jarabenia, Czechoslovakia d. 1945 Iwo Jima, Japan	<b>Ira Hayes</b> b. Jan. 12, 1923 Sacaton, Ariz. d. Jan. 24, 1955 Bapchule, Ariz.
<b>Harlon Block</b> b. 1924 Yorktown, Texas d. 1945 Iwo Jima, Japan	<b>Rene Gagnon</b> b. Manchester, N.H. March 7, 1925 d. Manchester, N.H. Oct. 12, 1979
<b>Franklin Sousley</b> b. Sept. 19, 1925 Hilltop, Ky. d. March 21, 1945 Iwo Jima, Japan	<b>John Bradley</b> b. July 10, 1923 Antigo, Wis. d. Jan. 11, 1994 Antigo, Wis.

“ q u o t a b l e “

“I know I’m going to heaven. I put in 36 days in hell.”

— Lloyd Keeland, Iwo Jima veteran

# Recruiting

# Still the toughest job in the Corps

**Sgt Joe Lindsay**  
*Community Relations Chief*

*(Editor's Note: This is Part One in a three-part series on B-Billets, a term which describes a 36-month assignment that Marines serve outside of their Military Occupational Specialty, and a position that is often vital for rank promotion in the Corps. This story focuses on recruiting duty.)*

The old adage “You never get a second chance to make a first impression” is an important thing for every Marine to remember, but perhaps it is most crucial to the Marine on recruiting duty.

For most Marines, the first contact they have with the Corps is when they meet their recruiter. The basis of this initial meeting can play a huge role in whether or not a potential recruit chooses the Marine Corps.

“I wasn’t really sure if I was going to join the Air Force or not, when I went down to the recruiter’s office,” admitted Sgt. Daniel States,

an Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, military policeman from Las Vegas, currently serving at Camp H.M. Smith. “But the Air Force recruiter was out to lunch, and the only one there was the Marine recruiter. He was eating a sandwich at his desk, in case someone came in. I’ll never forget it, because he put his sandwich away and said he wasn’t going to eat again until I joined.”

That kind of dedication is often what it takes in the world of recruiting duty.

“Recruiting duty is probably the most difficult and challenging duty the Corps has to offer,” said former recruiter Master Sgt. Andre Robinson, a Marine Corps career planner. “Not every Marine is cut out for this billet.”

The Marine Corps Recruiting Command’s mission is as simple as it is difficult: “To access young men and women to serve as U.S. Marines.”

“This is one of the most challenging things you can do as a Marine,” said Robinson. “It takes a special ability to talk to another individ-

ual about making a lifestyle change.”

Once a Marine, corporal through master sergeant (first sergeants are not eligible), has been approved for recruiting duty, the Marine receives orders to Recruiter School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Recruiter School is seven weeks long, has six scheduled classes per year, and begins each class with approximately 250 students. The school teaches effective communication skills, public speaking and techniques of salesmanship, as well as how to cope with a certain amount of rejection and frustration. The minimum tour length for a recruiter is 36 months.

“Only the best of the best are selected for Recruiter School,” said Robinson. “If someone who is interested in recruiting duty comes to me, I let them know of the tremendous hardships that come with this position. I also let them know that those hardships are outweighed by the benefits.”

According to Robinson, recruiting duty is a

25-hour-a-day, eight-days-a-week job.

“If you’re married and have a family, your home life and finances need to be stable,” said Robinson. “Because of the long hours and weekends spent recruiting, it’s of paramount importance that Marines involve their families in this decision. There’s going to be a lot of sacrifices both at the job and at home.”

Despite the sacrifices, Robinson says great satisfaction also comes from successfully holding this billet.

“There’s nothing quite like the feeling you get when you make a positive difference in someone’s life,” admitted Robinson. “It gave me a lot of pleasure when I saw a kid transform his life for the better by joining the Corps.”

For more information on recruiting duty, contact your career planner.

“There is no single assignment that can prepare a Marine to be a recruiter,” said Robinson. “The best way to prepare for this assignment is to be an overall outstanding Marine every day.”

## Recruiting duty calls a second time for some

**Sgt. Jimmie Perkins**  
*Marine Corps Recruiting Command*

**MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND, QUANTICO, Va.** — Did you enjoy your tour on recruiting duty? Do you wish you still had

the freedom to set your own schedule? Do you miss being involved in a local community? Well, if you were a successful Marine recruiter, the Marine Corps is giving you a chance to do it again.

To support the current Marine

Corps recruiting mission, successful former recruiters are being encouraged to step up and volunteer for a return tour.

“We are looking for experienced recruiters to go back into the recruiting force as leaders on the streets,”

said Master Gunnery Sgt. Preston E. Ford, the career recruiter (8412) monitor.

To qualify for a second tour on recruiting duty a Marine is required to have the additional military occupation specialty, 8411, and must have completed a successful first tour on recruiting duty. Applicants must also be qualified in accordance with the recruiter screening checklist and are required to have two years of obligated service remaining upon completion of Recruiters School. Recruiters coming back for a second tour will be required to attend Recruiters School again. However, the requirement can be waived on a case-by-case basis.

“If we can get Marines like that, Marines that want to be out there for the right reason, to help the Marine Corps, then this will really make an impact on recruiting.”

— Gunnery Sgt. Allen R. Gilly

said Gunnery Sgt. Allen R. Gilly, the 8411 monitor. “If we can get Marines like that, Marines that want to be out there for the right reason, to help the Marine Corps, then this will really make an impact on recruiting.”

Along with directly impacting the future of the Marine Corps, recruiters returning to the duty will enjoy many of the benefits they once had. However, many will find that there have been some improvements to their liking.

Marines who go back on recruiting duty will receive the same incentives as current Marine recruiters. This means that they will now be eligible for the highest special duty assignment pay offered in the Marine Corps - up to \$450 a month extra. Since the increase went into effect in October 2003, it will be a welcomed improvement for returning recruiters. They’ll also be eligible to apply for a position as a career recruiter (8412) or can receive a duty station preference upon the completion of a successful tour.

Marines interested in returning to recruiting duty should act fast because space is limited. Details on the voluntary second tour for former recruiters can be found in MARADMIN 073/05.



Staff Sgt. J.G. Agee

Sgt. Keith Carrier, Recruiting Station, Springfield, Mass., works with his “poolee,” Brian Gesner, as Christopher Shen holds Gesner’s feet. This type of physical activity is often conducted in a recruiting substation to gauge improvements or assess individuals prior to recruit training.



PSYOPS, From A-1

percent of Afghans say they find it “very important” to be informed about nationwide events. While the overall literacy rate remains around 30 percent, Afghans voraciously consume any news about their country they can find. For the Afghan Government and the Coalition, this eagerness to remain informed is a large part of the democratic process and another



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Sgt. Josh Hale, psychological operations soldier, fastens new flyers to a “product board” outside of Sharq Radio in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The flyers ranged in topics from how to avoid injury when unexploded ordnance is found to the Afghan constitution.

vehicle for them to spread their message of Afghan solidarity.

“For a country whose government is moving forward toward legitimacy on a global scale, having an informed populace who support their own freely-elected government and its programs is important,” said Marine Capt. Tony Apisa, information operations officer with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “PSYOP’s provide Marine units an additional asset in communicating with the local populace. In an environment where information operations are often the main effort, PSYOP units are crucial.”

Psychological Operations, with a name that conjures images of war-movie propaganda, in actuality, has everything to do with getting the truth out to the public. Their “product,” as it is referred to, carries certain messages about government programs and general information in addition to news. PSYOP material often includes health and hygiene tips and warnings about what to do if Afghans

find unexploded ordnance or mines, a common problem lingering from earlier conflicts.

“What we do is not propaganda,” said Hale emphatically. “Propaganda is lies, and we don’t lie to anyone. We’re here to get the truth out so that they can make decisions on their own.”

Army PSYOP soldiers said they are making a difference that is evidenced by the questions they are asked by Afghans when out on patrols with the Marines. They said that more and more people are asking questions about government programs or how they can join the Afghan National Army, which continues to recruit heavily.

PSYOP teams assigned to 3/3 Marines are helping — not so much to “win” hearts and minds in Afghanistan as they are helping to inform Afghans and allowing them to make up their minds on their own.

“We’re helping to legitimize the Afghan government intellectually the same way the Marines help to legitimize the Afghan government by working with the Afghan National Army,” explained Hale.

For Marines working to destroy any foothold for terrorism or anti-government insurgency in Afghanistan, the psychological operations portion of their mission has become an important part of making Afghanistan a safer, more inde-

pendent country.

“They are able to provide everything from conducting command and control missions to distributing leaflets and posters to inform the Afghans about local government programs,” said Apisa. “They are integrated into nearly every phase of operational planning.”

Issuing messages such as “lay down your weapons, and you will not be harmed” or “medical treatment will be given at the village mosque today,” from their powerful speakers, the PSYOP Soldiers can help spread messages and diffuse situations in a way that increases the battlefield resources available to the commander.

“Third Battalion, Third Marines has been very fortunate to have Tactical PSYOP Teams in direct support of the battalion. Their experience and special skills bring a ‘non-kinetic’ fire support asset that the Marines have come to rely on,” concluded Apisa.

The Marines of America’s Battalion continue to conduct stability and support operations in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. They remain focused on providing a stable environment for the Afghan government to continue to progress, and supporting the Afghan National Army and Police forces as they take larger responsibility for the peaceful future of Afghanistan.

MEDICAL, From A-1

females have no rights. They can’t say or do anything without a male family member,” she said. This was also Trevino’s fist time “outside the wire.” She is also assigned to Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The majority of patients seen were treated for upper respiratory tract infections. Additionally, every person over age two was given a de-worming treatment. Worms are a very common ailment there. Many patients complained of stomach aches and diarrhea that has lasted for years, signs that they their worms have gone untreated for years.

“Most people go to Walgreen’s and buy medicine like Motrin, but these people simply do not have that option. It is not available and they do not have money,” explained 1st Lt.

Julie A. Sheets, of Grove City, Ohio. Sheets, the senior female medical practitioner on site, is a physician’s assistant assigned to Company C, 725th Main Support Battalion from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and.

It is customary in Afghanistan for female Afghans to be seen by only female medical personnel. In some cases, Afghan women will die of ailments before being seen by a male doctor, because of the strict cultural laws.

Sheets said this village also had a higher rate of leishmaniasis than usual. Leishmaniasis is a skin disease caused by an insect spread parasite. It causes lesions that fester and leave disfiguring scars.

“For us to go out and show good will — that we are here to treat their families and their children -- shows the people here that we are here to help them,” explained Master Sgt. Edith Horn, officer in charge of the mission, assigned

to the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team.

“This was a key location to conduct the mission because of the influence of the people who live in the area,” Horn said. “There is still negative influence in that area.

“The smile on the children’s faces and the thanks that the people give us showed us that they were very thankful and that we were well received,” said the Army Reservist and full-time police officer in Indianapolis, Ind.

During this single-day mission, the team provided medical care to 338 adult males, 73 women, and 249 children. They also distributed 450 kg of rice, 500 kg of beans, and 64 kg of cooking oil to people in need.

Dr. Rasul, the director of the Mamoor Ali Jan Hospital in Khost Province, was also on scene for the Cooperative Medical Assistance. Dr. Rasul, who goes by only one name, as is customary in Afghanistan, said he enjoyed work-

ing with American doctors and he learned much from them. He also provided local insight into the problems experienced by the villagers.

Some people literally walked all day, bare-foot, in temperatures in the 40s, to seek medical care. There are no paved roads in Sabari District — nor many cars. Many came on crutches. Others that came wore prosthetics, evidence of the decades of war and land mines polluting their country.

The medical assistance and assessment visit, coordinated by the Provincial Reconstruction Team located in Khost Province, is essential to identifying illnesses in a particular area so they can address the issues. There are currently 19 PRTs throughout Afghanistan. Each PRT conducts civil assessments and assists the local government with reconstruction and security in each region.